

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that legislation he cosponsored to increase funding for wastewater infrastructure, including sewer overflow control projects like those in Oneida County and the City of Utica, has been reported favorably by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives as early as this week.

Arcuri is an original cosponsor of The Water Quality Investment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1262), which authorizes \$1.8 billion over the next five years for the sewer overflow control grants program. Projects to correct sewer overflow issues in Oneida County and the City of Utica are potential candidates for funding from this program

“Since taking office, I have fought to make sure Upstate communities get the funding they need to upgrade aging water infrastructure because everyone deserves safe and clean water.” **said Arcuri, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee**. “Repairing our sewers is a top priority for the health and economic potential of our region and I will fight to make sure local communities get the resources they need.”

H.R. 1262 authorizes \$13.8 billion in federal grants over five years for Clean Water State Revolving Funds that provide low-interest loans and grants to communities for wastewater infrastructure repairs and improvements.

“I will continue to fight to get this critical legislation signed into law,” **Arcuri said**. “I will continue to advocate on behalf of Oneida County and localities across the district to help them successfully apply for federal grants to make necessary repairs.”

Additionally, the Water Quality Investment Act of 2009:

- Authorizes technical assistance to rural or small communities to assist them in gaining access to financing wastewater infrastructure.
- Authorizes technical assistance and training to rural or small publicly owned treatment works and decentralized wastewater systems to help them meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.
- Establishes water quality benefits as the primary criterion for determining whether projects

receive funding.

- Re-establishes and extends the applicability of Buy American provisions to the construction of treatment works projects funded under the Clean Water Act.
- Requires owners and operators of publically owned treatment works to monitor for, and provide timely notification of sewer overflows to Federal and state agencies, public health departments and the public.
- Reauthorizes the Great Lakes Legacy Act at \$750 million over five years to fund projects that address contaminated sediments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

In the 110th Congress, Arcuri repeatedly voted to reauthorize and strengthen these critical water programs; however, they never passed the Senate.

Arcuri recently voted for, and the President signed into law, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Economic Recovery Bill), which already includes \$4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Grant and Loan Funds. New York State will receive roughly \$431 million for water infrastructure, more than 10% of the total funding.

Projects like the Oneida County and City of Utica water projects will be eligible for this stimulus funding when they are “shovel ready.” Arcuri and Senator Schumer sent a letter to Governor Paterson urging him to use federal funds for these projects. The bill also includes \$1.38 billion for rural wastewater and water projects in communities of less than 10,000 residents nationwide, such as Owasco and Dolgeville.

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